

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. An anti-microbial, curable silicone rubber composition comprising in at least a portion of the exposed surface of said composition an organic matrix containing homogeneously dispersed particles of metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm (silver nanoparticles) in an amount providing on the surface of said composition an anti-microbially effective but less than cytotoxic silver concentration.  
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2. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized by comprising said silver nanoparticles in an amount providing a silver concentration of from more than 1 nmol/l to less than 1  $\mu$ mol/l on at least a portion of the surface of said composition.  
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3. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said organic matrix comprises said silver nanoparticles in an amount of 1 to 2000 ppm, preferably 5 to 1 000 ppm and more preferably 10 to 250 ppm.  
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4. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 3, characterized by comprising silver nanoparticles having a particle size of 2 to 20 nm preferably 5 to 10 nm.  
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5. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 1, characterized in that said fluid organic matrix comprises an organic fluid wherein said silver nanoparticles are dispersed.  
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6. The silicone rubber composition according to claim 5, characterized in that said viscous organic fluid comprises an aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon, a mineral oil, petrolatum,

glycerol, a fatty alcohol, polypropylene glycol, an animal and/or vegetable oil or fat, or a silicone oil.

7. A method for manufacturing a curable, anti-microbial silicone rubber composition comprising the steps of:

- 5      - providing a curable silicone rubber composition in a configuration ready for mixing
- 10     - providing a liquid organic matrix comprising metallic silver having a particle size in the range of 1 to 50 nm
- mixing said liquid organic matrix into said silicone rubber composition
- optionally curing the mixture of said composition with said organic matrix